

REMARKS

Claims 3-9, 11, and 15-25 are currently pending in the present Application.

Claim 20 stands rejected, and claims 3-9, 11, and 15-19 have been allowed.

Claims 21-25 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claims 21 and 25 are amended, and claim 20 is cancelled.

Reconsideration of the Application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Oath/Declaration

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the originally-filed oath or declaration is "defective". On May 12, 2005, Applicant submitted a substitute Declaration in a Supplemental Response to Office Action. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge the receipt by the USPTO of the substitute Declaration.

Priority

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Applicant "has not filed a certified copy" of three European patent applications in which foreign priority is claimed. On May 12, 2005, in a Supplemental Response to Office Action, Applicant has submitted certified copies of the three European patent applications in which foreign priority is claimed. Applicant therefore respectfully

requests the Examiner to acknowledge the receipt by the USPTO of the three European patent applications in which foreign priority is claimed.

Cancellation Of Rejected Claim 20

Applicant wishes to expedite the allowance and issuance of the present Application, and therefore refrains from further discussing the cited reference. Applicant cancels currently rejected claim 20 to place the Application in condition for immediate allowance.

The Applicant expressly states that rejected claim 20 is not cancelled or amended herein for reasons of patentability. The rejected claim 20 is cancelled solely to expedite the allowance and issuance of the Application. Furthermore, the Applicant also reserves the right to seek allowance of any additional claims in Applications that may claim priority in the present Application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action of May 16, 2005, the Examiner indicates that claims 3-9, 11, and 15-19 are allowed. In paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 21-25 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 20, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant therefore amends claims 21 and 25 in independent form to place claims 21 and 25 in condition for immediate allowance. In addition, claims 22-24 depend from amended independent claim 21, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Statement Of Reasons For Allowance

Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention includes various patentable elements and limitations in addition to those specifically identified by the Examiner in paragraph 8 of the Office Action. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the allowable subject matter of the present claims are not limited to only those reasons expressly described by the Examiner in the statement of reasons for allowable subject matter.

Summary

The Applicant submits that the foregoing amendments and remarks overcome the Examiner's rejections and objections. The Applicant therefore submits that all pending claims are patentable over the cited art, and respectfully requests the Examiner to allow claims 3-9, 11, 15-19, and 21-25. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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